traders to explore the possibilities of promoting bilateral trade and other forms of trade cooperation.

(iii) Encouraging transactions in items other than those included in the Trade Protocol, so as to realise a higher level of trade.

(iv) Agreement to resume border trade.

(v) Participation in Trade Fairs/ Exhibitions.

(vi) Greater use of trading organisations in Hong Kong for export to China.

Bank Loans outstanding against Sick Shipping Companies

739. DR. BAPU KALDATE
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bank loans amounting to Rs. 150 crores are outstanding against sick shipping companies; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to recover the outstanding amounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) As on 30th September 1987, balances of bank loans outstanding against Private Sector sick shipping companies amounted to Rs. 460 crores. Out of Rs. 460 crores, Rs. 350 crores are repayment by those sick shipping companies which are considered to be viable. These companies are expected to be able to service their debt burden.

(b) The Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited has carried out financial appraisal of the Shipping Companies assisted by erstwhile SDFC. In the case of those sick shipping companies which are considered to be viable, rehabilitation packages have been worked out, for them by the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited. Under the rehabilitation packages, outstanding debts are to be restructured and/or rescheduled with the concurrence of the concerned banks. In the case of non-viable sick shipping companies banks have been issuing legal notices to the defaulting companies and have also been taking such other legal steps as considered appropriate.

Implementation of Ganga Action Plan

740. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whethre it is a fact that Ganga Action Plan has not brought out any qualitative change in the holy river so far as reported in "The Hindustan Times" of 30th June, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Under the Ganga Action Plan, 262 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 259.27 crores have been sanctioned for the interception, diversion and treatment of domestic waste water flowing into the river Ganga in the three States of UP, Bihar and West Bengal. These include 31 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 34.86 crores for Varanasi. 26 schemes have been completed and work is in progress on most other sanctioned schemes. Most schemes will be completed during the 7th Plan period and some of the works will spill over to the 8th plan. The impact on the quality of the river can be assessed only after the schemes are completed.